

2nd March 1925]

Opium.—The levy of excise duties and licence fees on opium and the control of possession, transport and sale (excluding the control of cultivation, manufacture and sale for export) are entirely the concern of the Local Government.

Salt.—The subject is administered by the Local Government as agents of the Government of India.

Post and Telegraph offices and Telephones.—The Local Government exercise no control.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, certain subjects which are under the control of the Government of India are also described here as being under the control of this Government. Our trouble is that when any question is asked relating to these subjects, the answer that is given is that they do not primarily concern the Local Government."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I have always made it a principle that if a question is asked on a matter in which we are able to give information, I give the information. In certain matters we do have some control and over others we have none."

Salt.

Foreign salt.

* 236 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state with reference to question No. 199 (page 237 of Volume XVI)—

(a) whether a large quantity of foreign salt is imported into India as ballast in British-owned ships; and

(b) whether duty is imposed on such salt, and if so, what duty?

A.—(a) So far as Madras Presidency is concerned, there have been no imports of foreign salt as ballast.

(b) Yes; duty at the current rate of excise duty.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, this is a subject which is of some importance to this House. Seeing that a large quantity of salt is imported into India, it is natural that a Member of the House inquires whether this salt which is imported as ballast is taxed or not. As a matter of interest to us we would like to know if it is taxed."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"May I point out there is a definite answer to the question?"

Constitution of districts, divisions, etc.

Proposed abolition of certain divisions, etc., in Cuddapah district.

* 237 Q.—Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACEARLU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table the reasons adduced for the proposed abolition of one revenue division, two revenue taluks and two deputy tahsildar divisions in the Cuddapah district?

A.—A memorandum^a is annexed explaining the reasons for the changes which have been proposed as a measure of economy.

^a Printed as Appendix I on page 636 infra